

Amendments to the Specification:

Kindly replace the paragraph [0037] with the following:

[0037] The IRC 245 may include an internal decision making engine (also known as a forwarding engine (FE)) that makes frame forwarding decisions for data packets that are received by the receiver 205. The IRC 245 may monitor (i.e., "snoop") the data bus 215 to determine the frame pointer value and a part of the data frame, for example, the header information of a received packet, including the source, destination, and virtual local area network (VLAN) address information. The IRC 245 may use the header information to determine which output port will output the data frame stored at the location specified by the frame pointer. The IRC 245 may, thus, determine that a given data frame should be output by either a single port (i.e., unicast), multiple ports (i.e., multicast), all ports (i.e., broadcast), or no port (i.e., discarded).